Watershed Development". These guidelines, framed on the basis of the recommendations of the high level committee headed by Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao provide for monitoring mechanism both at the State and District levels, sufficient enough to meet the requirements of implementation of the watershed projects.

Grants to State Governments to improve infrastructures

5608. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to give grant to the State Governments for improving their infrastructures like construction of roads/ bridges on link roads to facilitate farmers and to bring their produce to the market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) Government are presently engaged in the process of formulating a National Rural Roads Programme (NRRP) for construction of roads in rural areas of the country.

Panchayat elections in States

5609. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the States which failed to hold elections to Panchayats under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act; and

(b) the action taken against them to expedite the elections?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) The States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Bihar, the NCT of Delhi and the Union Territory of Pondicherry have yet to conduct Panchayat elections, after commencement of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992.

The Arunachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Bill, 1997 is pending and Presidential Assent was withheld as the Bill did not provide for reservations for Scheduled Castes in Panchayats. The Constitution (86th Amendment) Bill, 1999 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha (in December, 1999) with a view to exempting Arunachal Pradesh from making provision for such reservation in Panchayats.